*Agenda*

**Sierra Cascades Dialog # 13**

**Exploring the Range of Public Views on Desired Conditions**

**for National Forests in the Sierra Nevada and Cascades Regions**

Wednesday, April 30th, 2014

Lion’s Gate Hotel and Conference Center

3410 Westover Street, North Highland (Sacramento) and

Inyo National Forest Supervisor’s Office, Bishop, CA

**10:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks**

*(Deb Whitall, Acting Director of Ecosystem Planning, Pacific Southwest Region, USDA Forest Service)*

**10:20 Discussion: Exploring public views on desired conditions for national forests in the Sierra Nevada and Cascades regions.**

*Commenters*

* *Representative from the environmental community*
* *Representative from the forest products industry*
* *A county representative*
* *A Tribal representative*
* *Representative from the non-motorized recreation community*
* *Representative from the motorized recreation community*
* *Representative from the ranching community*
* *A Student of environmental conservation*

The representatives from each of the categories will be asked to give short (three-minute) responses to the following questions. Others in the room will be randomly asked to provide comment as time allows.

1. *Why are national forests important to you?*
2. *Please provide 3-4 desired conditions that relate to your particular areas of interest that can be used with forest plan revisions.*

**11:00 Facilitated table discussions on panel presentations**

Participants will be asked to discuss the range of opinions expressed by the commenters and consider ways that divergent interests might find areas of mutual interest and agreement. The table discussions should produce advice on this overall question:

*What are the desired conditions for national forests that everyone at the table can agree to?*

**12-12:15 Report out and summaries**

**12:15 Lunch**

1:15 **Challenges for the Forest Service with divergent public expectations from national forests’ stakeholders.**

* *Ed Armenta, Forest Supervisor, Inyo National Forest*
* *Kevin Elliott, Forest Supervisor, Sequoia National Forest*

Each forest supervisor will describe the challenges with making management decisions on the national forests for issues where the public opinion is deeply divided. They will address the challenges in the context of a variety of resource topics such as eastern Sierra recreation and forests, wildlife habitat, water, community well-being, or range management.

**2:00 Facilitated table discussions on panel presentations**

Participants will be asked to identify ways that the Forest Service can work with diverse interests to identify desired conditions that have broad agreement as the agency revises the management plans for national forests in the Sierra Nevada and Cascades. Groups will develop recommendations or guiding principles that will be offered to the Forest Service.

**3:00 Report outs and open discussion**

**3:45 Next steps, Close, and reminder of the next Dialog**